

TOP SECRET

30 April 1980

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 30 April 1980

Mr. Carlucci chaired the meeting. [ ]

25X1

Hetu reported the Publications Review Board has reviewed 40 of 51 manuscripts submitted thus far in 1980. Submissions include 17 books, 26 articles, four speeches, two book outlines, one television script, and one chapter of a completed book. In response to a query from Mr. Carlucci, Hetu said Robert Blakey's (former Chief Counsel, House Assassinations Committee) book is being submitted one chapter at a time and that Blakey is pressing for completed review by 30 April--the Board's deadline is 11 May. [ ]

25X1

Clarke called attention to an OER item in today's NID "Economic Conditions and Prospects in Iran." He underscored the article's conclusion that Iran's economic situation is deteriorating. He said Iran's potential for meaningful help from other than Western nations is not promising. A brief discussion followed on the potential added impact of planned economic sanctions by the U.S. and its allies. [ ]

25X1

Clarke said NFAC is faced with a conundrum regarding what is thought to be the first unit of the Typhoon-class submarine seen at Severodvinsk. He said [ ] this is in fact the new ballistic missile submarine we have been seeking. He said also a transporter, erector, launcher for a tactical ABM system has been identified at Emba and that this system could be deployed against the Pershing missile in Western Europe. Lastly, he said the IIM on Zimbabwe has been disseminated. [ ]

25X1

25X1

Stein commented briefly on extra security efforts being mounted by the Soviets for the Moscow Olympics, noting this is not a good time for intelligence personnel to travel to the USSR. [ ]

25X1

Hitz said the HPSCI mark-up today would deal with the Hughes-Ryan Amendment; he noted the HPSCI Staff position is that this matter should be resolved in the Charter legislation. He noted also the SFRC will deal with this amendment tomorrow and he is hopeful that language worked out by Miller and Cutler will be adopted. [ ]

25X1

Hitz reported the HPSCI did not act on the letter from OMB requesting a 1981 budget amendment; he said, however, that the HPSCI will hold hearings on the request and that a paper will be needed from OMB prior to conference. [ ]

25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

[REDACTED]

he would like to discuss further following the staff meeting. Relatedly, Mr. Carlucci expressed his concern re reporting by Philip Taubman of the New York Times (article attached) of paramilitary infiltration into Iran early this year toward freeing American diplomats. (S)

Mr. Carlucci asked Hitz to prepare a response to Representative Rose's recent letter asking how many successful paramilitary operations we have had. He said he is likely to be asked the question again by Representative Rose during his HPSCI appearance later today. [REDACTED]

Briggs reported what may become extensive IG involvement in two litigations-- the C. Philip Liechty case involving a disgruntled former employee and the Edwin P. Wilson case involving charges that Wilson sold arms, etc., to Libya under the auspices of CIA. Briggs said a substantial number of depositions and documents will be involved. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In response to a query from Mr. Carlucci, Hitz said he is uncertain of Senator Muskie's attitude towards CIA or how the Senator is likely to approach his new role as Secretary of State. Hitz said in this regard he will contact Madeleine Albright, a former Muskie staffer who has been helpful to us in the past. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Attachment

TOP SECRET

New York Times (29 April 1980)

# U.S. Task Force Planned to Free Three Diplomats

## Small Group Was to Enter Iranian Foreign Ministry

By PHILIP TAUBMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 28 — Carter Administration officials said today that if the effort to rescue American hostages in Teheran had gone according to plan last week, United States paramilitary forces infiltrated into Iran early this year would have slipped into the Foreign Ministry to free three American diplomats held captive there since November.

Details of the plan to rescue the diplomats indicated that the assault at the Foreign Ministry would have been carried out by a small force of raiders in coordination with the main rescue attempt at the United States Embassy less than a mile away.

When the diplomats were free, according to officials close to the rescue mission, they would have been taken to the embassy and flown out of Teheran along with the 50 hostages held there.

Officials also revealed today that American intelligence agents infiltrated into Iran personally reconnoitered landing areas in the desert and near Teheran that had been selected for use by the rescue force. These inspections, which took place in recent weeks, indicated that the landing zones could be secured and would remain undetected during the rescue mission, officials said.

### Traffic Came as Surprise

The appearance of a bus and a truck at the desert location just as American planes were landing last Thursday night was "completely unanticipated," according to one official. He said intelligence reports indicated that no vehicular traffic would be encountered.

The disclosure of additional details about the mission came as questions continued to arise about the feasibility of the rescue effort.

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are scheduled to discuss the mission tomorrow in executive session. Hearings may follow, committee officials said.

The Senate Armed Services Committee announced today that it had begun an investigation into the breakdown of three RH-53 helicopters, which forced cancellation of the mission. Chairman John C. Stennis, Democrat from Mississippi, said the investigation would focus on maintenance, training, supplies and performance.

The House Armed Services Committee also announced that it would hold hearings on the mission next week.

### Crews Unaware of Mission

These hearings and inquiries, officials said, will focus on several key questions raised in the aftermath of the mission.

Helicopter performance is one. Military officials acknowledged today that the eight helicopters used in the mission were maintained by crews aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz that were unaware of the rescue mission and the strains it would place on the aircraft.

The helicopters used in the mission were also not the same ones that had been flown successfully in the United States during practice runs, officials said. Senior Administration officials have said that security considerations prevented transporting the helicopters used in practice to the Nimitz for use in the mission.

Another issue that will be examined, according to Senate investigators, is the command structure used in the mission. The mix of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine personnel, plus the deployment of paramilitary forces in Teheran, created a potentially confusing line of command, officials said.

Congressional committees will also try to determine whether military officials were certain that the mission was feasible. Top civilian officials in the Administration denied today that the rescue operation had been scaled down by the White House to reduce the chances for bloodshed.

Several top military officers, however, suggested that Pentagon doubts about the mission had been overridden by the White House.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown said last week that he and senior military officers had approved the mission and considered it feasible.